

ANTHROPOLOGY 2267B-650 - Anthropology of Zoos
Department of Anthropology
COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2024

Version date: Feb 7, 2024. (Formatting updates only; no changes to academic information).

Lectures and instructor:

Asynchronous delivery via OWL.

Instructor: Dr. Ian Colquhoun

Email: colquhou@uwo.ca

Office hours by appointment. Email me (meetings via 'Zoom' can be scheduled).

Prerequisites: None.

Antirequisites: None.

Course Description:

Just about everyone has visited a zoo at one time or another (or maybe even visited multiple zoos multiple times). But, what does the average zoo-goer actually know about zoos? Modern "conservation zoos" are, at the same time, one way that people, particularly children, may experience aspects of the natural world (especially exotic wildlife), but are also perhaps relatively unknown to the general public in *how* they function. Modern conservation zoos, in fact, present a microcosm of how humans interact with the natural world. In this course, we will undertake a literature-based examination of the multiple dimensions of interaction that exist between modern "conservation zoos", society (both zoo-goers and the broader general public), and the conservation research community. We will also consider what the future of "conservation zoos" may hold.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site on the first day of the Winter 2024 term.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify and critically reflect upon the key perspectives concerning the role(s) that modern zoos currently play in the conservation of endangered species;
- show an appreciation of how an interdisciplinary approach grounded in anthropology can be used to examine the value, and future, of zoos in the 21st century;
- critically analyze and evaluate online content presented by zoos relating to public engagement and conservation education. This critical analysis and evaluation will include assessment of ongoing public and academic debates on a range of issues as they relate to course themes and the societal position zoos will hold in the future.

- hone transferable critical thinking skills that will have long-term applicability in your professional and life tool-kits.

Course Materials:

There is **not** a required textbook for this course.

Rather, in our examination of the multi-faceted nature of zoos, we will be making use of peer-reviewed articles drawn from academic journals such as *Zoo Biology*, *International Zoo Yearbook*, and *Conservation Biology* (among others). **All** the course readings are either from Open Access sources, or are drawn from academic journals which are available electronically through the [Western Libraries web portal](#).

Registered students will be able to access information about these journal article course readings through the course's on-line OWL site on the first day of the Fall 2023 academic term.

Evaluation Breakdown:

The following is the breakdown of this course's evaluated work:

- Zoo Websites Comparative Evaluation (15%)
- Mid-term Test (35%)
- Reflection: The Future of Zoos (15%)
- Final Exam (35% -- only covers material following the mid-term test)

For the purposes of this procedure, a take-home examination is normally considered to be an assessment that could reasonably be completed by a well-prepared student in 6 hours or less. As a guideline, for long-answer and essay-based take-home examinations, the expectation is that completion of the assessment will require 2000 words or less.

Students will be provided online access to the examination at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the examination slot assigned by the Office of the Registrar. Papers will be due by the end of the assigned examination slot, and will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.

Note on Mid-term and Final tests -- Because Anthropology 2267A-650 is being delivered as an asynchronous online course, Western has a policy that mid-term and final tests can only be in one of two formats: **i)** "real-time" tests conducted online with 'cyberproctor' software, or **ii)** "take-home" tests that are administered over two consecutive days, with a 24-hour "question reveal" period (during which time students can be preparing their test answers) followed by a 6-hour window during which completed test answers must be submitted via the course OWL site. **We will be using "take-home" test formats for the mid-term and final tests in Anthropology 2267B-650.**

Academic and Accommodation Policies

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) policies in the Academic Calendar. Such items include accommodations for students with disabilities, religious holidays, consideration for medical illness, academic appeals, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and code of student conduct.

Academic Consideration for Missed or Late Work

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed lab or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

For students who have missed, or will miss, any course work, whether it be for medical related or non-medical related, please read the details and instructions on "[What is Academic Consideration](#)".

Accessible Education

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. Please see [Accessible Education](#) for information.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. Please visit Western Libraries to read about [What is Plagiarism?](#)

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